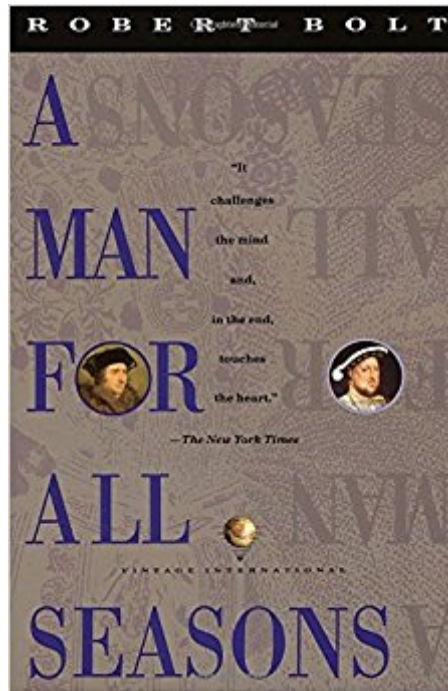


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# A Man For All Seasons: A Play In Two Acts



## Synopsis

The classic dramatization of Sir Thomas More's historic conflict with Henry VIII – a compelling portrait of a courageous man who died for his convictions. Sir Thomas More – the brilliant nobleman, lawyer, humanist, author of such works as *Utopia* – was a long-time friend and favorite of Henry VIII, ascending to the position of Lord Chancellor in 1529. Yet he was also a staunch Catholic, and when Henry broke with the Church in 1531 after the Pope had refused to grant him a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, More resigned the Chancellorship. In 1534, Parliament passed a bill requiring all subjects to take an oath acknowledging the supremacy of England's king over all foreign sovereigns – including the Pope. More refused, was imprisoned, and finally was executed in 1535. An enduring modern classic, *A Man for All Seasons* "challenges the mind, and, in the end, touches the heart" (New York Times).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A Man for All Seasons is a stark play, sparse in its narrative, sinewy in its writing, which confirms Mr Bolt as a genuine and solid playwright, a force in our awakening theatre.”  
Daily Mail --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The classic play about Sir Thomas More, the Lord chancellor who refused to compromise and was executed by Henry VIII.

A modern description of a historical event, this play describes the tribulations of Sir Thomas More during the split between the Roman Catholic Church and the newly-formed Church of England. The play lays out the historical details clearly and articulately. The writing is engaging and accessible. Most importantly, the depiction of More is true to everything we know about his personality and morals. The fascinating part for me is More's approach to the law. There are some very memorable quotes in this play that anyone wanting to understand the law would do well to study. More's character lays out some deep questions about the nature of proof. His situation (and the eventual resolution of his case) illustrate the continuing tension between law as a pure exercise in reason and law as an instrument of state power. Enjoyable as the play is, it is a cautionary tale. Wonderful as the story is, Bolt's use of the Common Man and the frequent stage directions were a distraction to me - especially with all the hats. I understand the mood that Bolt was trying to set but whenever those parts of the play came around, they actually jolted me out of that mood.

As a community college student I believe this book would be an excellent addition to any list of political novels for required reading. Its theme is religious freedom, but it's also about government, and how too much power to the center can influence everyone's understanding of morality and values. Because King Henry the VIII said so, there were new definitions for marriage. Was he right? Most people now would say yes, but Thomas Moore speaks of objective truth and how it cannot be changed despite humanity willing it changed. If you're not into ethics, it's also a character study. Robert Bolt isn't/wasn't Catholic, so this isn't him gushing about a saint, but he did make Thomas Moore entirely admirable and yet human. He was primarily a man of the law, and when he defends himself in the play he always goes by the law, not religious sentiment, so you see the other courtly figures conspiring against him by rewriting the rules in their favor. I could not put this down. Keep the cast of characters list handy so you can follow along in the beginning, but I promise you'll find something to be drawn to. This is a classic.

It never fails: The books are always better than the movies. That is especially true in this case. It has been a while so even though I remembered the main story line, I'd forgotten a lot of the details which, of course, make it such an excellent read. If you're looking for crib notes material here, you've come to the wrong place. Many others have already provided a brief synopsis of the story line, as well as direct quotes. As with all good books you have to READ it to fully appreciate it. A Man for All Seasons is appropriately titled, and it is interesting how, in my opinion, it is much more applicable to today's society than to past generations. It is an excellent STORY for all seasons...and all

generations. Now buy it and read it. It's an easy read with subtle nuances that you will definitely appreciate. You will not regret it.

What's to discuss? This is a classic modern English play. Now that the Wolf Hall series is out, Thomas More is getting a much more critical look. But, as a play (and movie), A Man for All Seasons is solidly in the canon.

I couldn't simply read it, I listened to the play while reading it because it has to be said in certain ways for the meaning to come across. It's a great play, and when re-reading it the meaning was clear and beautiful.

A classic story of one man's fight for his conscience. The movie adaptation was given numerous awards. An absolute requirement for a complete understanding of Tudor England. The work is meticulously researched with minor changes made for dramatic purposes. Many memorable lines. For Catholics and all people that value religious freedom.

Read the book. Watch the movie. This is not the story of a great man who gave his life to stay true to his principles.

Robert Bolt is at his best here with a truly thought-provoking piece of theatre. Ethics, morals, life without compromise. How stand up to the most powerful man/ruler in your life? Sir Thomas More did, and lost his head, but he is remembered for his upright ethos. In a Catholic world ruled by the Pope, how does Henry VIII divorce not only his wife, but the church's authority? And Who stands, morally and righteously intransigent? Sir Thomas. We know Henry is influenced by Martin Luther's writings but Sir Thomas is a staunch Catholic. Read the struggle here presented. Although fictional, it is based on actual letters and diaries.

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